

Cooperative Mexican fruit fly Eradication Project

San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner
California Department of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

To: MEDIA

Date: December 2, 2002

From: Public Information Office

Pages: One

Subject: Information Update for media.....5 p.m. Final for Monday

Survey

Project personnel worked throughout the holiday weekend. As a result, survey personnel have now confirmed a total of 56 adult flies at 19 sites and 3 larval sites to date. All of these detections are within approximately 2 and ½ miles of each other, northwest of Valley Center.

Regulatory

Officials are drafting boundaries of a regulated area. There is no quarantine currently in effect. Grower sign-up was conducted over the holiday weekend. To date, 160 growers have signed compliance agreements. These agreements specify pre-harvest and pos-harvest treatments allowing commodities to move in commerce. Hold notices have been placed on properties where adult flies or larvae have been found to prevent the spread of the pest.

Treatment

Two California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews, under the direction of project personnel, removed fruit from the second larval property today. The number of CCC crews will increase throughout the week to complete fruit removal at larval sites. Project staff completed malathion and bait treatments, using backpack equipment, on 16 acres surrounding mated-female fly find sites.

Phonebank

Residents with questions may call 800-491-1899. The hotline is staffed from 8:00am to 4:30pm Sunday.

Meetings/Other

Growers, packers, shippers and others with questions about regulatory requirements may get information or sign compliance agreements to facilitate crop movement on Tuesday at the Valley Center Community Center on Lilac Road from 8:00am to 6:00pm. The project staff will hold a 6:00pm community meeting on Thursday, December 5, at Valley Center Middle School to outline plans for the eradication of the Mexican fruit fly outbreak near Valley Center. Area residents are invited to attend.